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ECEMBER 7th, 1978 ★ Volume 13, Number 49 ★ *13th Year of Publishing* ★ FIFTY-CENTS

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VOL. 13, NO. 49 DECEMBER 7, 1978

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COMING NEXT WEEK:

HOW TO MAKE A DOWNRIGGER

About the Cover—

A nice codfish is gaffed and brought ashore after gobbling a clam bait fished in the winter surf. See the article *"Whiskers and Lanterns"* on page 8. *Photo by Frank Daignault.*

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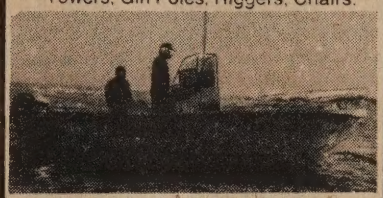

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Pass It On...

GATEWAY STRIPER CLUB HOLDS FIRST ANNUAL NANTUCKET TRIP

A group of club members joined the "Surfcaster" in a successful surf fishing trip on the Island of Nantucket earlier this month. Fishing was rated by all as good to excellent. Their catch consisted of bluefish, striped bass and bonito. Largest bluefish weighed in at 15 lbs. 7 oz.; largest bass 32 lbs. 3 oz. Ninety-five percent of all fish caught were tagged and released.

The Gateway Striper Club is planning another trip to the Cape Cod area in either late May or early June. This is only one of the many surf fishing events that we have, and are in search of new members. For more info, call John Ohle at 235-5336.

IGFA TAKES OVER FRESHWATER RECORDS

Subsequent to **Field & Stream's** decision to transfer their freshwater record-keeping system to the International Game Fish Association, it has taken considerably longer than anticipated to accomplish the physical and statistical transfer. This delay has been primarily due to the volume of material and the complexities involved with this rather large task.

To provide an orderly transfer of this authority and to accommodate the interim applications, the following procedure has been adopted:

Field & Stream will process all contest and special award applications for fish caught up to and including June 30, 1978. Their special awards and their annual contest will end as of that date.

Starting with fish caught as of July 1, 1978 and continuing to the end of the calendar year, all **Field & Stream** affidavit forms for **saltwater** catches will be eligible for consideration in the IGFA annual saltwater fishing contest and IGFA forms will be furnished to all applicants.

Due to the time needed for IGFA to develop new freshwater angling rules and regulations and to consider a revised annual freshwater fishing contest along with the awards program, an interim **freshwater** fishing contest will be initiated. It will include all freshwater catches made during the period from July 1, 1978 through December 31, 1978. Recognition and certificates will be given by IGFA for the three largest fish in each species category. **Field & Stream** affidavit forms will be accepted and the rules and regulations used by them will govern this interim contest.

No honor badges or special awards will be given by IGFA during this six-month contest. All world record applications for freshwater fish will be processed by IGFA and will not be affected by these interim periods of responsibility.

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The FISHERMAN

WILL BE TAKING A SHORT WINTER VACATION DURING THE LAST TWO WEEKS IN DECEMBER. WE'LL END THE YEAR WITH ISSUE DATED DECEMBER 14, AND START OUR MID-WINTER PACKAGE WITH THE JANUARY 4, 1979 ISSUE.

★ *GOOD FISHING & HAPPY HOLIDAYS* ★

Contests & Tournaments

HIGH HILL STRIPER CLUB FISHING REPORT

The High Hill Striper Club held two contests in October. The winner of the first contest was Joe Vetrano with a bass of 21 lbs. 7 oz. Fred Schwab won the second contest with a nice bass that weighed in at 30 lbs. 2 oz.

Club standings as of November 1, 1978, are as follows:

Club Points: Bob Krauss—1705; Fred Schwab—1501; Bill Muller—1228; Paul Reynolds—1069 and Frank Arendt—742.

Bass Points: Fred Schwab—574; Bob Krauss—562, and Bill Muller—482.

Weakfish Points: Paul Reynolds—610; Bill Muller—392; Bob Krauss—376; Frank Arendt—362, and Fred Schwab—240.

Bluefish Points: Fred Schwab—364; Bob Krauss—166; Frank Arendt—160; Bill Muller—144; and Bob Teso—104.

Release Points (Point fish weighed and released): Bob Krauss—2354; Bill Muller—1811 and Fred Schwab—1808.

TOURNAMENT ANGLERS CODFISH TOURNEY

Following are the results of the All Clubs Codfish Tournament, which was held on November 19.

Total Weight: 1st—230 lbs., Hudson Anglers; 2nd—85 lbs., Tourna-

ment Anglers, and 3rd—83 lbs., Squaw Island.

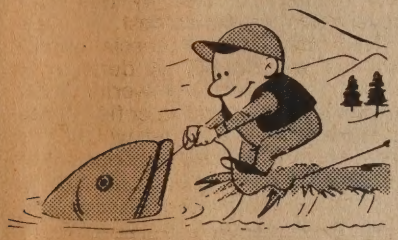
Largest fish: Dick Rath—Carol Maria, 36 lbs. 3 oz; Harry Blair—Carol Maria, 32 lbs., and Joe Masone—Debra, 29 lbs.

L.I. SPORTFISHING CLUB CONTEST RESULTS

The L.I. Sportfishing Club once again says "thank you" for the write-up concerning our flounder contest October 28 & 29. There were nine clubs involved in the contest. The winners were:

Trophy—Hudson Anglers; 1st—Dick Baldassano, Hudson Anglers; 2nd—Joe Soka, Squadron Anglers; 3rd—Joan Pillar, Amity Harbor; 4th—Lou Clement, Amity Harbor and 5th—Tom Platt, The Other Place.

Hopefully we will start the spring with a weakfish contest again.



CHUM LINES

CONFUSED FLOUNDER?

Recently, while fishing at Montauk, I caught a flounder which had its stomach reverse from all other flounders I have ever caught.

After filleting, I kept the skeleton and froze it just in case anyone is interested.

Is this rare for flounders? What are the odds of this happening, as I have never seen it before. Would appreciate an answer if anyone can help. **Gregory Veprek, Commack, NY.**

We receive a number of inquiries each year regarding unusual fish species or anaomalies in common species.

In this case then, since we haven't seen the fish we can't be sure whether you have caught a winter flounder with an anomaly (anatomical mistake) or confused a similar species with our winter flounder.

Since you sound like an experienced fisherman, it is not likely that you would misidentify a blackback flounder. Thus, it's likely you caught a "mistake."

We have never heard of this particular anomaly before. Thus, we guess it to be quite rare. However, reverse pigmentation (dark belly, light top, blotches, etc.) are very common in flounder. **Dr. W. A. Muller.**

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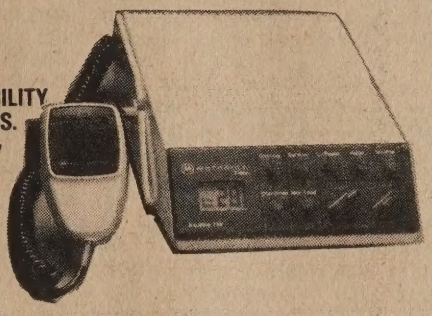

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NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

Council Approved Mackerel, Squid, & Butterfish Plans

At its regular November meeting in Philadelphia, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council put the finishing touches on three fishery management plans. The only major change in all three cases was a change from the calendar year to a "fishing year" starting on April 1. In the case of species fished by the foreign fleets, this change will permit American fishermen to catch as much as possible before any re-allocation of their quota to the foreigners.

The only controversial item at this late date was the allocation for butterfish. While everyone seemed to agree that the maximum sustained yield is over 20,000 metric tons, there was considerable disagreement as to what the optimum sustained yield figure should be. In order to protect the rapidly growing U.S. export market to Japan, the OSY was set at 11,000 metric tons—with 7,000 going to domestic fishermen (probably more than they can presently catch) and 4,000 to foreigners. Butterfish are a by-catch in the squid fisheries and the foreign fleets need about that much in order to take their allocations of squid. I'm happy with the restraint shown in keeping the OSY low. Butterfish are an important prey species and inshore runs have been poor for several years. Indeed, I find it ironic that scientific assessments of the stock find it to be in good shape, when our inshore fisheries have had few butterfish in recent years—despite a complete assortment of environmental conditions that would seem to eliminate that possible factor in the inshore scarcity. Perhaps we need an even larger surplus offshore in order to provide the excess for an inshore run? The scientists haven't been able to give me an answer for that proposition, and I wonder if we aren't in effect discriminating against American inshore fishermen by not building up the population to the point where it will provide what was once a traditional fishery?

Though New England fishermen expressed some concern at public hearings that the mackerel quotas could be caught before they get a shot at them, no change was made in that FMP—except for the April 1 starting date. Foreigners will once again be allocated only 1,200 metric tons, which is intended by a by-catch. If any country exceeds their individual mackerel allocation, they'll be shut out of their directed fishery. The domestic catch is allocated 9,000 metric tons to recreational interests and 5,000 to commercials. This was sufficient this year and should also be ample for next season. However, if the huge quantities of tinker mackerel observed this summer from Long Island to New England survive the winter, we may be in for a boom in this fishery in 1980. Preliminary Management Plans, formulated by NMFS, will continue to control these fisheries until the FMP's become effective (assuming acceptance by the Secretary of Commerce) on April 1. Since the quotas in both sets of plans are similiar, this doesn't present any problem.

Observers Run Into Big Problems on Foreign Vessels

For quite sometime, the observer program had been operating very smoothly. However, things have changed drastically in the past couple of months. The first serious incident was reported by observer James Blaine Murphy, who served aboard the Spanish vessel **Nuevo Mundo** from September 18-October 3. As soon as Murphy stepped aboard in New York, he was recognized as the observer who had initiated the seizure of the Spanish trawler **Costa de Noruego** in April. He was promptly isolated. No one spoke to him and he wasn't called for meals. For six days he subsisted on cold canned foods he had brought along as snacks. There was no fresh water on the ship, as the Captain refused to expend the additional fuel required to get the ship up to speed to allow the evaporators to function. The crew was also none too happy with their circumstances. The observer also had to warn the Captain regularly about his fishing practices. The net was often fished on bottom, resulting in a large by-catch, and on one set—about six tons of mud! Butterfish constituted thirty-eight percent of the catch, as compared to ratios ranging from less than one percent to six percent on other Spanish vessels fishing the same areas at the same time.

The next observer on the **Nuevo Mundo**, Christopher Dewey, had more trouble with the Coast Guard than with the Captain. Observing that the logs weren't being properly kept, Dewey requested a boarding by the Coast Guard Cutter **Taney**. Unfortunately, the boarding crew failed to back up the observer and issued no citations. This incident has created some tension between the partners in enforcement of foreign fishing regulations: the Coast Guard and the NMFS Observer Program. Every effort is being exerted now to correct this serious problem. Observers don't have enforcement powers and must depend on the Coast Guard to back them up when they report violations. A good deal of thought is being given to a change in the present system which would make the observers enforcement officers.

Observer David Kolator reported serious problems during his deployment aboard the Mexican trawler **Teucro**. By-catch was very high (butterfish were the predominant species in this "squid" fishery—46%) and there was a reluctance to return prohibited species promptly, or log them accurately. The Captain admitted underestimating catches of silver hake (whiting) and butterfish as he was going over his quota and would have to stop fishing. The observer's estimate of the butterfish catch was sixteen tons greater than that logged! Worst of all, Kolator was unable to contact the Coast Guard during his entire eleven-day deployment. This is not necessarily a reflection on the Coast Guard, which has been overtaxed by search and rescue and drug interception missions. However, it does point up the importance of conferring enforcement powers on the observers.

An even more serious problem occurred on the Italian trawler **Airone**. A series of repeated violations resulted in a call by observer John Arnold to the Coast Guard. Violations and citations were issued, after which, the atmosphere aboard ship became so hostile that the observer requested an early end to his assignment. This vessel ended up being seized a couple of weeks ago for a long list of violations. During the period that the observer was aboard, the by-catch of whiting and butterfish was substantial, but they also had a significant quantity of porgies—7.2 metric tons.

Ironically, the other Italian vessel seized in November, the **Corrado Secondo**, had gotten good marks on cooperation from the observer in October. Some of its errors were attributed to poor instructions from shore-based fleet officials. It should also be noted that the problems recounted are not necessarily typical. Most foreign vessels treat the observers as the regulations dictate (the same as ship's officers) and try to comply with our requirements—at least when the observers are aboard!

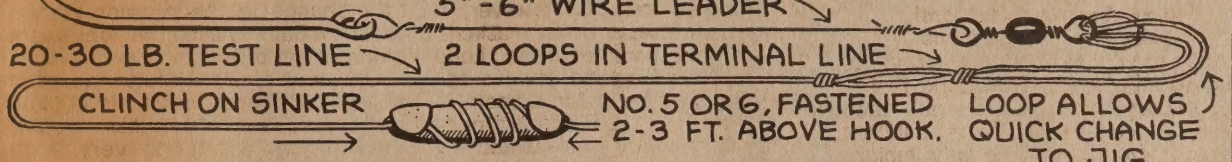
In order to properly control the situation, it appears necessary to have 100% observer coverage and give the observers some enforcement powers. Since the foreign fleets must pay the observer costs, 100% coverage shouldn't be a problem; however, rigid government policies make a mountain out of a molehill. The observer payments from the foreigners go to the general fund, rather than

(Continued on page 25.)

BLUEFISHING TIPS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

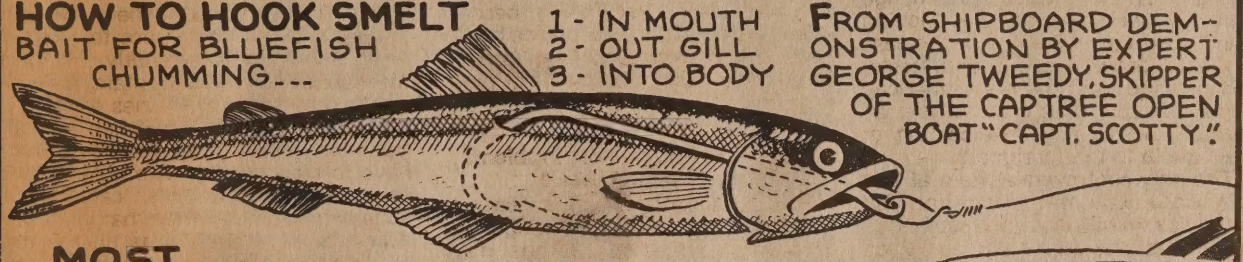
OFFSHORE BLUEFISH CHUMMING RIG AS USED ABOARD LONG ISLAND SOUTHSHORE OPEN AND CHARTER FISHING BOATS.


5"-6" WIRE LEADER
20-30 LB. TEST LINE
2 LOOPS IN TERMINAL LINE
CLINCH ON SINKER
NO. 5 OR 6, FASTENED 2-3 FT. ABOVE HOOK.
LOOP ALLOWS QUICK CHANGE TO JIG.

HOW TO HOOK SMELT BAIT FOR BLUEFISH CHUMMING...

1 - IN MOUTH
2 - OUT GILL
3 - INTO BODY

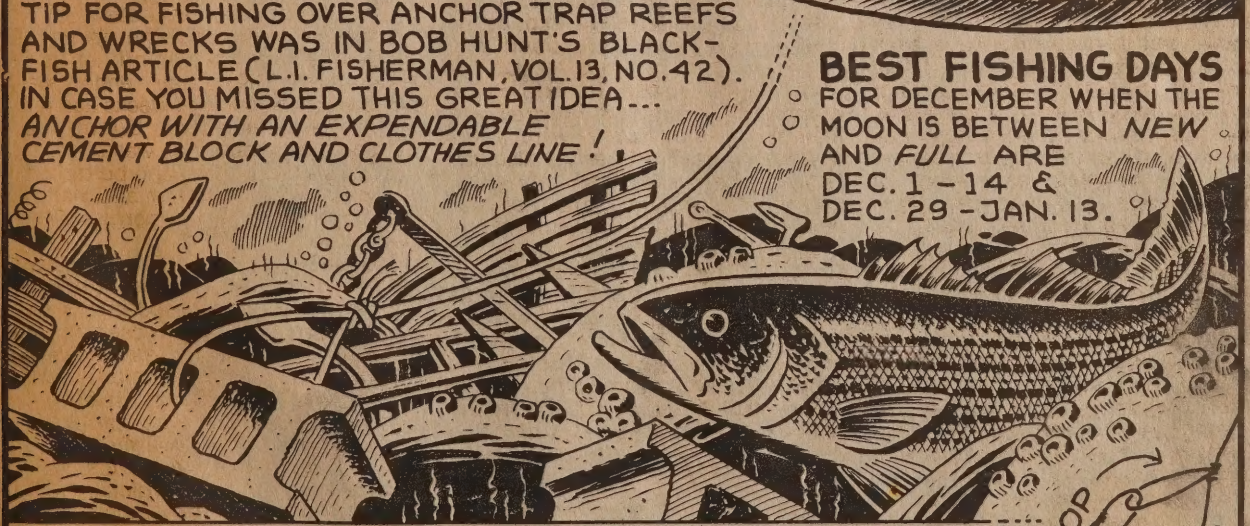
FROM SHIPBOARD DEMONSTRATION BY EXPERT GEORGE TWEEDY, SKIPPER OF THE CAPTREE OPEN BOAT "CAPT. SCOTTY".



MOST PRODUCTIVE BLUEFISH JIG OF THE PAST SEASON WAS THE *GREEN BANANA SPLIT*. WHO KNOWS WHAT NEXT YEAR WILL BRING ?

ANCHOR SAVING BLACKFISH TIP FOR FISHING OVER ANCHOR TRAP REEFS AND WRECKS WAS IN BOB HUNT'S BLACKFISH ARTICLE (L.I. FISHERMAN, VOL. 13, NO. 42). IN CASE YOU MISSED THIS GREAT IDEA... *ANCHOR WITH AN EXPENDABLE CEMENT BLOCK AND CLOTHES LINE !*

BEST FISHING DAYS FOR DECEMBER WHEN THE MOON IS BETWEEN *NEW* AND *FULL* ARE DEC. 1 - 14 & DEC. 29 - JAN. 13.



OUTBOARDER BEN CHAMEIDES, WHO HAS TRAVELLED WORLD WIDE, CONSIDERS L.I.'S GREAT SOUTH BAY THE BEST FISHING SPOT IN THE NORTHEAST AND CAUGHT THE FOLLOWING SPECIES THIS PAST SEASON : FLUKE BLUEFISH, WEAKFISH, FLOUNDER, STRIPED BASS, BLACKFISH, BLOWFISH, KINGFISH, ONE 7 LB. BONITO AND ONE 4 FT. 6 IN. SILVER GARFISH ! HIS TIP : *WHEN IN DOUBT USE THE SMALLER HOOK AND NO HARDWARE.*

Surf Side with D. W. Anthony

Whiskers & Lanterns

The time of Christmas—the two weeks that precede and the two that follow the day itself—seems to bring out the best in mankind. Nevertheless, not everyone finds themselves in a position to be joyous and happy. The following may sound more like a story out of the depression era, but it doesn't have to be. In this day and age of high inflation and recession, high unemployment, and future shock, the reality of a financially bleak Christmas exists for some people. In many ways, fisherpeople are indomitable; it is part of the mystique. The fact that one can fish—especially in the surf—day after day, night after night without a hit and still relish the thought of going back for more, proves that the fisherman finds hope in almost anything. Perhaps the last trip out a pod of bait was found—surely the fish will find the bait by tomorrow night. Perhaps the fisherman thought that he had a hit. These little glimmers are enough to make an angler say, "Tonight's the night!"

Going back a few years there was a family that had a very tough year. The father was unemployed and by the time Christmas rolled around there was no money for holiday frills. These folks were too proud to take welfare, so they struggled. The father and the son loved fishing, but what can you fish for two or three days before Christmas? Ordinarily, the pair might have travelled to the shores of Rhode Island where a clam belly thrown out into a winter surf could readily take a good sized codfish or two; but there was no money for gasoline to push the car up to Rhody. Still they couldn't just sit around watching the snowflakes and the scurrying Christmas shoppers.

"Come on," said the father to his son, "let's go fishing. It's got to be better than hangin' around the house all day. At least we'll get some fresh air and exercise." The pair decided that the best and least expensive strategy would be to make a trip to the beach in the afternoon at low tide and gather some surf clams that the winter surf deposits close to the beach. There had been a storm a few days ago, so the likelihood that the strong winds and towering waves had stirred up some clams was good indeed. The clams would be the bait for codfish.

Many surf fishermen have heard the rumors about cod taken from the south shore beach. A few have even been witness to the stray catch; but were there enough fish to make it worthwhile? Should the pair go to Montauk where the chances, fishing either North Bar area or the south side, were a little better? Would Democrat Point be the right place to go since Democrat had always figured prominently in the rumors? If they didn't catch cod, the chances of ling and whiting were more than rated in the rumor category. Whiting and ling were being taken quite regularly by some who knew the where, when, and how.

The plans were set, the clams dug and shucked, and the tide, wind, and water conditions were perfect for the trip. A cold, but light, northwest wind turned the ocean turmoil into a gentle roll. Although they could have fished at any number of spots along the south shore, the pair elected to drive to parking field #2 at Robert Moses State Park. They walked along the beach and with the help of a little moonlight they were able to read the water. In order to improve the odds, they would look for a cut or a hole where the water would be a little deeper and the chances of finding fish much improved. They must have walked several miles, but they found no interesting territory. Just when they were about to give up and simply throw the baits out anywhere, they found a hole.

"There it is! See how the water is flat and dark in that one patch? We can easily reach it from the sand." The men worked quickly to sink the extra-long sand spikes into the sand and the son listened intensely to his father's instructions. The rig was a simple one. A twenty-inch heavy monofilament leader was fitted with a small float and this was joined via fish finder to a three ounce pyramid sinker. The surf was tranquil, so it was unlikely that more weight would be needed. The hook was a 6/0 and was secured to the forty pound test leader with a perfect snell. The father showed the son how to bait up. He carefully worked the hook in and then out of the tough part of the clam, but was careful to allow the soft part of the clam to hang free so that it would flutter gently in the current and easy surge.

The pair walked towards the waves which were collapsing, not breaking, on the sloping sand. Before they could cast they noticed something in the wash. "Hey, Dad, look at the whiting." Indeed, whiting had chased sand eels into the wash and true to tradition, had beached

Watch the rod tip, sip hot coffee, and try to stay warm against the cold night air. ***Photo by Frank Daignault.***

themselves. The son went back for a bucket and filled it with whiting in only a few minutes. The father meanwhile had cast out the rig carefully. He wanted to be certain that the clam did not come loose from the hook, so the rig was tossed gently. The hole was so close to the beach that it wasn't necessary to lean into the cast at all. The father realized that it was very likely that the whiting which seemed to be abundant in the area would pick up the clam bait meant for a cod, but anticipation of a fish, of any size, throbbing at the end of his line encouraged him to try.

However, there were no whiting tapping at the bait. In fact, the whiting had apparently left the area, although one could still see sand eels spraying in the moonlight. The son was also casting now, but before he could set his rod in the holder, his father grabbed for his rod. He leaned back and had set the hook. This was no whiting and the rod took a sharp bend. Could it be a lingering bass? The father thought that this was very possible. Although it was December and the water was chilly, it wasn't that cold that a big bass still migrating to a southern winter home might not have decided to gobble one more mouthful before turning southwest for the trip across the New York Bight. The fish took drag, but did not make any spectacular runs. The son rushed to his father's side. "Where's your fish, Dad? Should I reel in my line?" "That's okay, son, I've got this fish under control and he's staying right out in front of me. You'd better pay attention to your rod, though. Whatever this is, if there's one, there's likely to be another one or two."

No sooner had the son turned towards his rod to heed his father's advice than he noticed that the tip of his rod was bouncing like a Mexican jumping bean. He snatched it quickly and set the hook. He, too, was into a fish. The father was ready to slide his fish into the wash and as he swung the gaff his son heard him exclaim, "Cod, it's a cod!" The son was cranking furiously and the knowledge that it was a cod, the fish that they sought, caused even more adrenalin to flow. The father approached his son and offered his help. "Take it easy son, let him run; don't crank against the running fish." Indeed, the son did calm significantly and he quickly had things turned around. In minutes, another cod was slapping its tail in the wash.

The men spent a minute or two admiring the two, twenty pound cod that lay side-by-side on the clean winter sand; but the father realized that there was still a good portion of the tide that remained. The sand eels were still spraying and now both men knew why. The cod were chasing them along the bottom of the hole towards the shore. As the bait and the cod approached the dry sand, the sand eels moved quickly to the surface and exploded in an attempt to be free. Two clam baited rigs went sailing out into the moonlight. The father made his cast very short. After all, he thought, if the cod are feeding close to the beach, why fish out beyond them. On the other hand, they had already taken two fish from the middle of the hole, so he decided to cast short and continue to let his son work the deeper water. The father's rig had barely had time to settle when he felt the tap-tap-tap of the cod. The fish lunged on the last hit and it was then that the father sank the hook. This fish came in too quickly: it was a cod, but barely five pounds. Now things were beginning to make sense. The smaller, more active, cod were just behind the wash chasing the bait there, while the larger fish waited beyond in the hole and probably were feeding on a combination of sand eels and whiting.

The quality of the action was too good to be true. The younger man was fast to another large cod and the father was beaching another small fish which turned out to be a ling. When the action stopped, they counted seven cod on the beach and all but one was in the twenty pound class. The bucket full of whiting rounded out the picture nicely.

Now some of us may frown on selling fish, but in this case they were sold for a worthy cause. The six big cod were sold and the money was used to buy a Christmas tree and presents for the family. The small cod and the whiting were filleted and baked with wine and spices and the family agreed that it was one of the best Christmas dinners that they had ever had.

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OLD TIMERS' CORNER

"The way it was..." with Matt Ahern

BULGING SACKS & MONSTER FISH

Have you noticed whenever old-timers discuss bottom fishing in "the good old days," someone is sure to lead around to "monster" fish? Should these fish not be the subject of the moment, you are certain to hear how a fellow had to be damn careful he didn't get a hernia lugging bulging sacks of cod, blackfish, porgies, sea bass, fluke, etc., off the boats.

Just how much of this is fact, and just how much is fancy? Well ... let's take these two subjects one at a time and see what we come up with. We'll begin with those bulging sacks.

Having fished through a good portion of what has come to be regarded as "those good old days," I'd say good catches were quite common—but not all the time! The nagging doubt of whether we would meet with success each time we went out was always present—just as it is today. Will it be a good day, or a bad day? That is the question; that was the question, and it always will be as long as fishermen exist.

Okay. Just how good was good, and just how bad was bad? Much depends upon how you look at it. I know that what we considered poor fishing results then is often looked upon today as good. We were spoiled rotten, is what we were. But, of course, we didn't know that. We just accepted good fishing as normal. There was no end to the fish —or so we thought.

For instance, six or eight fluke 'way back then was poor fishing when thirty or forty per fisherman was common; but by the average fluke-catching standards of today, that "meager" catch would be considered good by most fishermen.

The catching of ling and whiting was never in doubt. We filled sacks and sacks with them each spring. Nor was there ever a problem knowing what to do with all we caught: you just gave them away to grateful neighbors. The headaches came when you attempted to get them home.

Most fishermen depended upon public transportation to reach and return home from such places as Sheepshead Bay and Canarsie. Subway and elevated trains, trolley cars, and buses were often crowded, especially on those nice weekends when most of the fellows returned from fishing. This often posed considerable difficulty, especially when carrying ling and whiting in burlap bags.

No dressed-up dude with his equally arrayed girl friend was ever enchanted by those leaky, smelly, bulging bags brushing against his lady love's nether limbs. Harsh words were common, and the tired, irritated fisherman brooked no interference with what he considered his constitutional right to travel where, when, and how he pleased.

You can bet there were some mighty stirring weekends around the waterfront.

I was a devoted ling fan back in those days (still am), and most of this fishing was done aboard the Canarsie party boats. A trolley car met each train arriving at Brooklyn's Rockaway Parkway terminal of the 14th Street-Eighth Avenue, New York BMT line. Most of its early-morning riders were fishermen going to the Canarsie shore—a distance of about three miles. This was free if you had arrived at the terminal by train; otherwise it was a nickel. (Incidentally, you could ride from the Canarsie waterfront to Eighth Avenue, New York for that nickel.)

As I said, I was a devoted ling fan at the time and often fished aboard the party boats with another fourteen-year-old kid from the neighborhood—Jimmy Anderson by name. We filled many a burlap bag with these fish. We'd lug those drippy bags on our backs, through crowded Golden City Amusement Park, and then into a waiting trolley, park the bags on the floor and relax, chattering happily about the day's adventures. Just two innocent, extremely happy kids who had sense enough to realize they were the luckiest of the lucky.

But even innocence must suffer trials and tribulations. One warm May afternoon saw Jim and I lugging the inevitable drippy bags to the trolley, but when we attempted to step aboard we were halted in our tracks by an irate motorman.

"You damn kids ain't getting in this car!"

Stunned silence.

"Do you know what this car smells like every weekend from that mess of slime and fish drippings you kids leave behind on the floor? Like Fulton Market, that's what. And don't think the guy in the car behind will take you, either. He's madder'n me!"

And there we were. Stuck. And with over a hundred pounds of uncleaned ling rapidly being converted to mush in the heat. What to do? What would you do? Sure, we could have ditched the fish, but then we'd have nothing to brag about when we got home. And for us kids, bragging about your fishing prowess was part of the game.

But nimble-brain Jim came up with the solution. "Run back to the boats," he said. "Get one of the mates peddling fish to lend us a roll of his newspaper. Maybe we can sell our fish right here." Which is what we did. We sold every ling—four for a quarter. Maybe we didn't have any bragging-fish to bring home that day, but we brought home enough bucks to cover all our expenses, and then some. And not only that, it opened a way for us to never be without fishing funds—if the fishing was good, that is.

So much for bulging sacks of fish. Now what about those monster fish which were, according to some reminiscent fishermen, "a dime a dozen?"

Except for one time, in no way did I ever see a monster fish. Big fish, yes. Good-sized fish, yes; but none larger than we occasionally catch today. There were just more of them available, and probably that's where the mistake is made. The interpretation of big fish into monster fish comes easy when you live with it over the years.

But we did bulge our sacks with all the available bottom fish—many, many times. Two pound sea porgies were common, and three pounders were caught nearly every day by someone on board. However, porgies over four were rare, although I did catch several that size, but not many.

As far as blackfish are concerned, there is no difference in size between those we caught and those we catch today. My largest is a fourteen pounder, which I don't consider a monster because blacks this size and larger are caught every spring and fall from Rhode Island to New Jersey. It was just another big blackfish.

Fluke were plentiful, but the average was only one-and-a-half to two pounds. Big fluke, however, were more common than they are today, but we didn't see many over twelve pounds. The largest I ever saw weighed a shade over nineteen pounds, but larger fluke had been caught before then and have been since.

There were more humpback sea bass in those days, but anything over four pounds was rare. An eight pound bass holds the record, and is what I consider a monster for that category. However, this one was caught before my time and in this article I'm only relating personal experiences.

All this boils down to the one fish I ever considered a monster—and this fish was a cod.

Winter codfishing in the long ago was better on the average than it is today. We caught many cod in the twenty pound class, an occasional one in the low to mid-thirties, but few above that. Most averaged six to ten pounds.

But it is this huge cod that continues to haunt me through the years. It was caught back in 1930 and weighed sixty-three pounds. Now that is what I call a monster in the bottom

fishing category. I was one of the mates on the old Rose R II that December day and we were codfishing on 17 Fathom Bank. Dick Persson was skipper and what he didn't know about bottom fishing was of no account. His experience in the fishing game went back to sail, and he once told me that in his native Sweden he was dory-fishing cod and coalfish (pollack) with his parents when he was four-years-old.

Fishing was slow that day; but Dick expected it to be so until the change of tide when, he said, we'd have enough cod to satisfy all hands. And when Dick Persson spoke about fishing in this manner, you had better pay attention and believe, for it usually did happen as promised. But this tide change wasn't expected for another two hours and most of the passengers were bored stiff.

One of the fishermen was a rotund Belgian we called "Babe." I remember it was he who began the chant "Move the boat!" At first it was just a plaintive demand, but within a half-hour, more passengers joined in and soon it became an annoying singsong. Dick knew, of course, that to move the boat now was to spoil the day's fishing. He just ignored the rumblings of discontent and sought refuge in the pilot house.

Now, Dick was a patient man as I well knew, but gradually the raucous chorus of "Move the boat!" got to him, too. Finally, mere mortal that he was (in my kid-like worship of the man, I found this hard to believe), he bounded out of the pilot house, eyes afire, spare rod in hand, and strode to the stern, and wedged himself alongside Babe and another fisherman. "No fish here, huh?" he growled. "We'll see."

Placing a slice of skimmer on an 8/0 Sproat, he cast out underhanded as far as the wooden sidewinder would allow. He waited, and by now the passengers had stopped their infernal chanting and became interested in the proceedings. Their interest was well rewarded, for suddenly Dick came up on a fish that absolutely refused to be budged.

"Hung up," some fisherman commented.

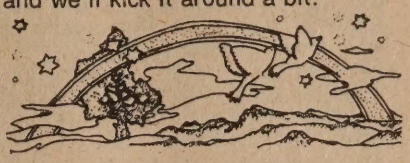
But Dick wasn't hung up, for just about then the rod came to life with the powerful surges of an out-sized cod. It must have taken ten minutes to winch that cod to the surface, and when I looked down and saw the size of that great fish rolling on the surface, I couldn't believe it. Huge head, wide creamy-white belly, and a tail that seemed as broad as a hand-held fan. I knew I didn't have enough experience to gaff a fish that size, and I discreetly moved aside and let one of the other fellows take over.

"Use two gaffs!" Dick ordered. "We don't want to lose this fish!"

The monster was safely swung aboard and Dick quickly bent over and removed the hook. He then picked up the cod by the gill cover, looked at Babe's flushed face, and tossed the fish toward him. "It's yours," Dick said. Then he moved closer to the amazed fisherman and said, "Now don't ever tell me again to move the boat!" With that, he turned and went back to the pilot house.

Of course the fact that the fish was huge was just a stroke of luck—it could have as easily been a ten pounder. It was one of those things that happen in life and there are no explanations. I know Captain Dick was just as surprised as the rest of us, but you must agree he carried it off well. We weighed the fish on platform scales back at the dock and it was exactly sixty-three pounds. It was the largest cod I've ever seen. And it was also the last time I ever heard Babe shout "Move the boat!"

These are but a few of the things I witnessed in the long ago—bulging sacks, "monster" fish, and all. If you fellows have any comment, questions, etc., drop me a line at 20 Dogwood Road, Hampton Bays, New York 11946. I'll be glad to hear from you and we'll kick it around a bit.



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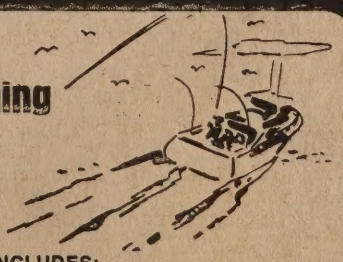

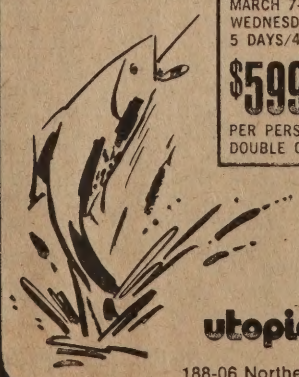

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FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

SCIENTIFIC STUDIES OF THE BLACK SEA BASS

IRREGULAR FLUCTUATIONS. Historically, most species of finfish can be documented to fluctuate between periods of high abundance and those of decline within rather predictable limits. For example, weakfish seem to clearly have a thirty to thirty-five year cycle; striped bass seem to fluctuate widely within seventy years or so; porgy about ten or twelve years, and bluefish supposedly conform to an eleven-year cycle—although recent experiences seem to show that this is false. Curiously, the black sea bass seems to vary in a very irregular way. For example, commercial landings remained about the same from roughly 1900 to 1943. In the mid to late 1940s, a noticeable increase was observed and the commercial landings that had averaged about 225 metric tons per year suddenly rose to about 1000 to 1200 metric tons. However, by 1970 only about 30 metric tons were sent to market. Some will argue, and perhaps with great justification, that the decline during the 1960' was a direct result of the heavy foreign fishing pressure on our Continental Shelf during that time. A similar decline was observed to occur in the sport catch. In 1964, 198,000 individual fish were estimated to have been caught by sportsmen. This number dropped to only 24,000 in 1966, only a few years after the Russians and other Soviet Block nations had begun plundering our Shelf under the help and suggestion of our Department of State—all this under the disguise of something called detente. What's detente? I don't seem to be able to remember the phrase now that we have a 200-Mile Limit!

THE RESULTS. A study of black sea bass was undertaken by the Department of Environmental Conservation (N.Y.) between 1969 and 1972. The Kismet and Fire Island Reefs were once again used as locations for sampling because the reef attracts and holds fish like sea bass, making it convenient to study them from month to month, and from year to year. The results showed that there seems to exist no great difference between males and females in terms of abundance and size. For example, 502 sea bass were captured at the Fire Island reef. Of these, 240 were male, while 262 were female. The difference is not significant. For the season, the males averaged 285 millimeters (about twelve to thirteen inches), while the females averaged 270 millimeters (about eleven to twelve inches). The black sea bass grows predictably; that is, there are few surprises in studying the length and weight relations. Such surprises are common among some species, especially predators. The implication exists in this data that the black sea bass would be an excellent species for studying the effects of diet, water quality, pollutants, and temperature stress on growth and general well being.

AGE. The data suggests that sea bass can easily live to about nine or ten years if they are able to avoid capture, disease, and predation, but that the average age is about two or three years.

MIGRATION. During the study, many black sea bass were tagged and then released. The tag returns led to some interesting conclusions. The overwhelming majority of the tagged fish from the south shore reefs tagging sites were recaptured by sport fishermen at the same site within days to months after tagging. It is interesting that no tags were returned from commercial pot fishermen who work the area extensively. McHugh (1972) suggested that sport fishermen have a far greater impact on the mortality of black sea bass than commercial fishermen on the Atlantic Coast (Dr. McHugh holds a seat on the Mid-Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Council). Tag returns from the tag site support his hypothesis. It is interesting that returns that cross between two seasons show that the sea bass is a very mobile fish. One would expect that once a body of fish move inshore in the spring that they would stay close to the original migration site. This is observed by Montauk sea bass fishermen. When they seek sea bass, they generally fish a certain piece of bottom for several days, at which point they "fish the spot out." They then let the spot rest for anywhere from several days to several weeks depending upon how abundant the bass are. Theoretically, when the bass are scarce they will tend to stay on the piece of bottom where they have settled because competition will be minimal. However, when the fish are abundant, specimens will constantly leave the competition of one bottom piece in search of areas where there are fewer sea bass. Some of the fish recaptured the year after tagging showed up in some interesting places. One was recaptured at the tag site; one was caught in East Quogue; one showed up at Montauk Point, and one was taken in the vicinity of City Island in the western park of Long Island Sound. Two fish that were tagged in 1972 and then recaptured in 1973 showed up at Indian River, Delaware and the second off Cape May, New Jersey!

DATA SUPPORTS SEX CHANGE IN SEA BASS. It was orginally reported in 1949 that sea bass change sex. Early studies suggested that females do not reach a size greater than about twelve or thirteen inches before they begin to change sex; but the results of this study discovered females in their eighth year and as large as fifteen and sixteen inches. The difference in data may be explained by the nature of the study method or by a variation in the fish found along different portions of the Atlantic Coast. At this time, it is not known why the sex change is important to the species. If young fish were mostly or all female, then we could hypothesize that this is an adaptation to provide a large number of spawning females. However, the fish reaches sexual maturity into their third year (about nine to ten inches); therefore, since at that time the sexes are about equal in number, we cannot support the hypothesis. Further study is required.

MANAGEMENT. At the present time there is an eight inch minimum limit for fish that are bought or sold in New York State. The above data that the species is sexually mature at a later stage lends support to a ten inch limit. Beyond that it would seem that sea bass, along with other species that winter on the Continental Shelf, should be given species management consideration when Fisheries Management Councils establish window areas and by-catch limits for permit holding foreign nationals.

IMPACT OF SEA BASS ON OTHER FISHERIES. It is known that sea bass eat a variety of crustaceans. One of their favorite foods is small lobsters and crabs. An abundance of sea bass on the inshore grounds may have a significant impact on the population of the American lobster. The relationship between the two organisms remains to be explored, but should be studied in the near future.

CATCH RATE. Data from the recent DEC study suggests that the catch rate for sea bass is very low and that it may take a large local population in order to produce good commercial and recreational catches of the species. Although pots take sea bass, the results of the study suggests that the species is more difficult to take in pots than by rod and reel. This may be due to a number of factors such as wariness and escape capabilities. However, the possibility exists that competition among sea bass for available food may contribute greatly to their eagerness to respond to baited hooks and pots. The effects of competition on the angler's ability to fool fish has been documented many times. Anglers typically attempt to use natural camouflaging conditions

(Continued on page 23.)

THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE ...From the Godfather's Cookbook

by Andy Regina

CLAM SAUCE NEOPOLITAN

Growing up under the aegis of Uncle Vito was no snap. Not only did I have my own parents to mind, but the tacit threat of Uncle Vito's displeasure hung in the background, like some malevolent spirit waiting to pounce on you if you got caught doing anything bad. Not that we ever actually did anything bad, but if we got our fingers burned in the everyday schoolboy foolishness we all indulged in, we'd be more afraid of being found out by the folks than by anyone else.

Dad was small, but his temper was giant-sized—and also immediate. If he ever got a letter requesting his appearance at school, for instance, we were a sure bet to get cuffed soundly, even before he would find out it was for nothing else than an open school week invitation! That was his philosophy; if anyone in authority said or did anything, we were automatically in the wrong, and his solution was simple and absolute: if he were more feared than any authority, we'd never get in trouble!

So, naturally, if we ever did get into any scrapes, we never let the old man know, and prayed that he would never find out, for it was double-lumps if he found out later anyhow! And my Uncle sided with Dad all the way—old-timers then figured that anyone in authority was always automatically right all the time. And we go no solace from Mom either; she was schooled in the same trend. And though she outweighed Dad by some fifty pounds, he was still the absolute monarch of his castle—except maybe for the kitchen, which was Mom's undisputed turf.

All this was very frustrating to our growing up process: for if we ran with the pack, we took equal chances, and if we did not, we wouldn't have a friend in the world. The worst of our evildoing was perhaps hitching rides on the trolleys that we had in the Bronx at the time; or perhaps sneaking into a movie house, or something of similar minor consequence. The only bad feature there was that because I was the fattest, thus naturally the slowest runner in our crowd, it was Yours Truly who was habitually caught.

Here's where Uncle Vito helped, though without his knowledge most of the time. Neighborhoods were more friendly then; much closer, where everyone knew everyone else. If you got in dutch, someone either always ratted to your folks, or came to your defense, saying how well he knew you, or how well he knew your folks. Once, when a cop had hauled me off the back of a trolley, some paisan passing by on his way home from work remarked to the cop that I was the nephew of Don Vitae (as Uncle Vito was known). The cop, being Italian at a time that saw few Italian cops, liked my Uncle very much, so he let me go with a warning, and asked to be remebered to him by me.

Small chance of that, I thought; I don't even want my Uncle to know that you even spoke to me at all, for then he'd surely sniff out the true reason in his own way. Anyhow, not all the cops were so obliging, and the one who walked our neighborhood was tough. Then we all knew the beat cop, and he knew us, and most of the time a friendly rapport developed between us—but not this guy. He seemed to resent being forced to patrol in our neighborhood, and he took it out on us, routing us at every opportunity. Many nights he'd whack us on the butt with his nightstick, to emphasize his order to break it up and go home, when we were doing nothing worse than hanging around under the corner street light, trying to harmonize some hillbilly songs like, "The Wabash Cannonball," or "Bouquet of Roses."

This one time we rebelled, and argued with the cop, who lined us all up against a building and patted us down like we were gun-carrying gangsters—which we weren't. Someone put in a call to the precinct, and in minutes several radio cars screeched up, sirens screaming and lights flashing, like a scene from "Public Enemy No. 1." Naturally, the whole neighborhood knew about it by this time, and Dad was among the anxious parents who ran to the scene, accompanied by my Uncle, who thankfully had stopped by for a visit. Some fast talking to the Sergeant in charge got us all off—although we had not done a thing, really—and we were all led off sheepishly, by our irate parents, stoically aware that the worst was yet to come.

To make a long story short, Uncle Vito talked Dad out of using me for a punching bag, but I was punished by being grounded for a week, harsh treatment for an innocent guy. And the humiliation we all suffered made us feel that much worse—'cause now all the neighbors had the pleasure of seeing us publicly embarrassed. When we got back together again, we had to get even with the cause of our embarrassment—the cop who started it all; but we had to do it without implicating ourselves.

Our chance came several days later, or I **should** say several nights later. It was a warm night, and we were hanging around on the steps of one of our front porches, goofing it up under the watchful eyes of some of our parents. A squad car had pulled up, and the sergeant was chatting with the beat cop (our friend) , which was what they used to do at regular intervals then. We all went over to the squad car, and kibitzed with the sergeant, who was a regular guy, pinpointing our presence with unquestionable authority, while the smallest guy in the crowd, Little Joe, sneaked around the corner, where the call box was located under a street lamp.

Scraping up some doggy-do on a stick, Little Joe popped open the call box, smeared the stuff all over the phone, closed the box, and rejoined us before he was even missed. After kibitzing with us several more minutes, the squad car left to check another post, leaving us once again with our parents, and forcing the beat cop to once more take up his solitary rounds.

Once the beat cop turned the far corner, one of the guys sneaked back around the near corner, and popped the street light with a well-placed brick. Now we all hung around the steps, waiting for the beat cop to complete his tour of the block, which would bring him to the call box once again. And the broken street light would force him to use the phone, because things like that were reported then, so an extra watch would be instituted on the stores in the area.

Well, you know what happened then, don't you, when that cop picked up that phone in the dark? It was a sight to behold, and he couldn't prove a thing. We were still in front of the old folks, but the songs had given way to some well-earned, and well deserved laughter! And Uncle Vito laughed the loudest of all! We had gotten sweet revenge, and justifiable vengeance was an ingrained code of life to him. Being present to witness our coup was a coincidence that was created by his visit earlier in the week, when he had brought several dozen fresh clams to mom and pop. Naturally, mom invited him to join us for dinner the following Friday, when she made a wicked spaghetti sauce with those clams, and my Uncle accepted. Mom, too, had her own persuasive method of making an offer you couldn't refuse, and her cooking was one of Uncle Vito's obsessions. If you'd like to try a sample on your own, here's a simple recipe that's sure to tickle your taste buds, too:

Clam Sauce Neopolitan

Contents:

1 lge. can minced clams, or
3 dz. fresh cherrystone or little neck clams, shucked & minced
2 lge. cloves garlic, minced
3 sprigs fresh parsley, minced
3 leaves fresh basil, minced

(Continued on page 18.)

STANDING ON WATER

by Fred Fragano

You do not have to be a god to stand on water—I do it every weekend. It's really no miracle; it's just that I go fishing from piers a lot. Piers are those extensions over water, usually built of wood, that provide good spots to fish from because they extend over deeper water where your chances of catching fish might be better.

People who live on the Coast are lucky—they have easy access to the great sport of saltwater fishing. Even those who do not live near the water may have the desire to capture the life of a fisherman; to enjoy the sea air, being outdoors—and mainly catching fish.

They have many types of fishing available: deep sea fishing, fishing in the Sound, in bays and rivers, and shore fishing—all are variations of this great sport. One other type which has become very popular among people of all ages and sexes is fishing from piers. In most cases, people who cannot afford the price of party boat fares or skiff rentals, or even those who can afford it but get seasick, are the ones who look forward to pier fishing.

Piers offer a great variety of fish to accommodate even the most selective fisherman. It is true that some will say, "Why should I fish from a pier? All the fish will be small, and there will be a slow pick." Yes, this is true to a certain extent; but mixed in with small fish at times are "monsters." Often I have seen more fish caught from piers than from boats. It might be a rare occurrence, but it does happen.

Now comes the problem: the fisherman will ask himself, "What kind of tackle will be needed?" Well, it's very simple and logical. Naturally, one should bring the tackle proper to the type of fish sought. Many people are just not satisfied by bringing one outfit; these are the people who bring up to three outfits at times. These different outfits would consist of one heavy tackle, one light tackle, and one ultra-light tackle combination.

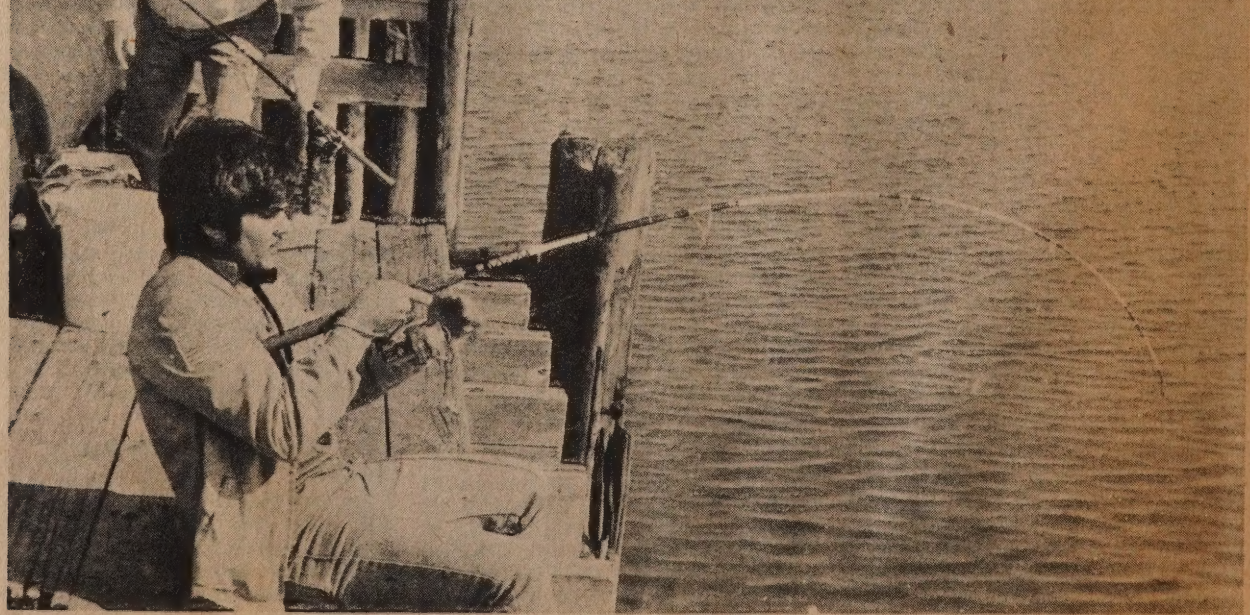
Heavy tackle would be used for fish such as bluefish, striped bass and weakfish; light and ultra-light tackle would be used for smaller panfish—flounder, porgies, lafayettes and other small fish.

As stated above, the tackle will depend on the type of fish sought. Since, at a pier, the size of the fish is really not in the world-record category, the average outfit needed would include a light rod about five to seven feet long, and a light reel with eight to fifteen pound test line. On the reel, there should be anywhere from one hundred to two hundred yards of monofilament line. This allows for a greater casting distance, with extra line handy if you should lose line or if that "monster" decides to run.

Many piers sell bait and tackle right on the premises—a blessing to many people do not come properly equipped for the day, and are always running out of bait or tackle. Wouldn't it be a real nuisance to run short on bait when, all of a sudden, everybody else starts catching fish left and right? So, a word to the wise: please **prepare yourself thoroughly** before making your trip. If no bait or tackle is available at the pier, bring enough of your own.

Pier fishing has very definite advantages and only some disadvantages when compared to the other types of fishing. The advantages, without a doubt, outnumber the disadvantages.

Beginning on the positive side with the advantages, most piers are long and extend out over the water where the depth is sufficient to have fish loitering around. The front of the pier (where the people are) is usually T-shaped, providing plenty of room. Normally, around piers there are no large boats or shipping; so the rumors that the water is polluted are false. If a body of water near



Author fights a fish off a pier in City Island.

a pier was polluted, there would be a sign warning you not to fish there. The piers are controlled by different owners. City-controlled piers are open to the public and, at times, admission is free. Piers which are owned by private individuals are off-limits to the public. To get onto these piers would be an impossibility unless you know the owner. Piers have no time limits, so there is no need to worry about arrival or departure.

The only disadvantage that I can think of is that the fish caught on the pier may not be as large as ones caught on fishing boats, but at least the fish will be available.

Depending on how many people are on the pier, there are different ways to fish. Casting will be the most effective method because it will enable your line, with the hooks and bait, to travel further out into the open water. This may also result in catching larger fish because you will be fishing deeper water. On a day when the pier is crowded, there may still be people who will cast; but for safety's sake, we advise you to just drop your line straight down to the bottom and try your luck there. You might see that this also produces results. Underhand casting may also be productive in getting fish, and on crowded days, it might be much safer. Also, casting might reduce tangled lines by keeping your line away from the crowd.

When a person casts his line, he should let his sinker and hooks hit bottom, and then all the slack should be taken out to allow the line to be really tight, like a violin string. This will allow the smallest nibble to be felt immediately. After the nibbling has gone on for awhile, a fish may have already hooked itself. Slowly lift your rod to get the feel, to see if the fish is on the hooks. If a fish is on, slightly strike back on your rod to definitely hook the fish. Not too hard, or the fish may get off the hook. Reel the fish quickly because there is a great distance between you, and the greater the distance, the more time a fish has to get off the hook. It is sad, but true; there is a tendency to lose more fish between the first bite and the actual landing.

The system mentioned above is used for bottom fishing only; that is, for fish like flounder, porgies, lafayettes, blackfish, and other types of bottom fish. For fish which live and stay on the surface, one must "jig." Jigging is the method by which a fisherman uses plastic or metal ornaments shaped like bait. These are brightly colored and shine. Jigging is done by dropping the lure down in the water and quickly retrieving it upward. The shine attracts the fish and he quickly makes an attempt to catch it; no bait is required.

The story is different for bottom fishing. Most bottom fish take worms—sand, blood, or tape.

A particular pier in City Island offers a wide variety of fish at almost any time of the year. Flounder are present in spring, summer, and fall. Porgy, snappers, mackerel, butterfish, eel, stripers, bluefish, and blackfish are available in the summer. Many lafayettes are to be had in the fall, accompanied by tom cod in early winter. This pier is located in back of a public school. It is a severely hazardous pier, due to the fact that it has been burned a number of times, and gaping holes and loose boards present a giant problem, so use caution if you decide to fish there.

Calico crabs make excellent blackfish bait.

Pier fishing can be a feast or a famine: if tides are not quite right and fish not cooperating, you can still enjoy yourself. Take advantage of the nice weather; spend a day outdoors with friends or family. Consider any fish that you might catch an extra bonus to be credited to the advantage of fishing from piers.

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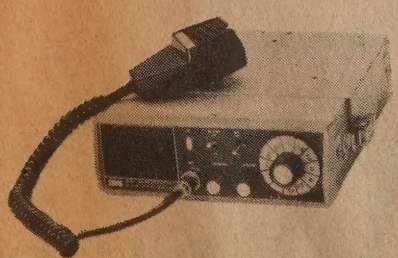

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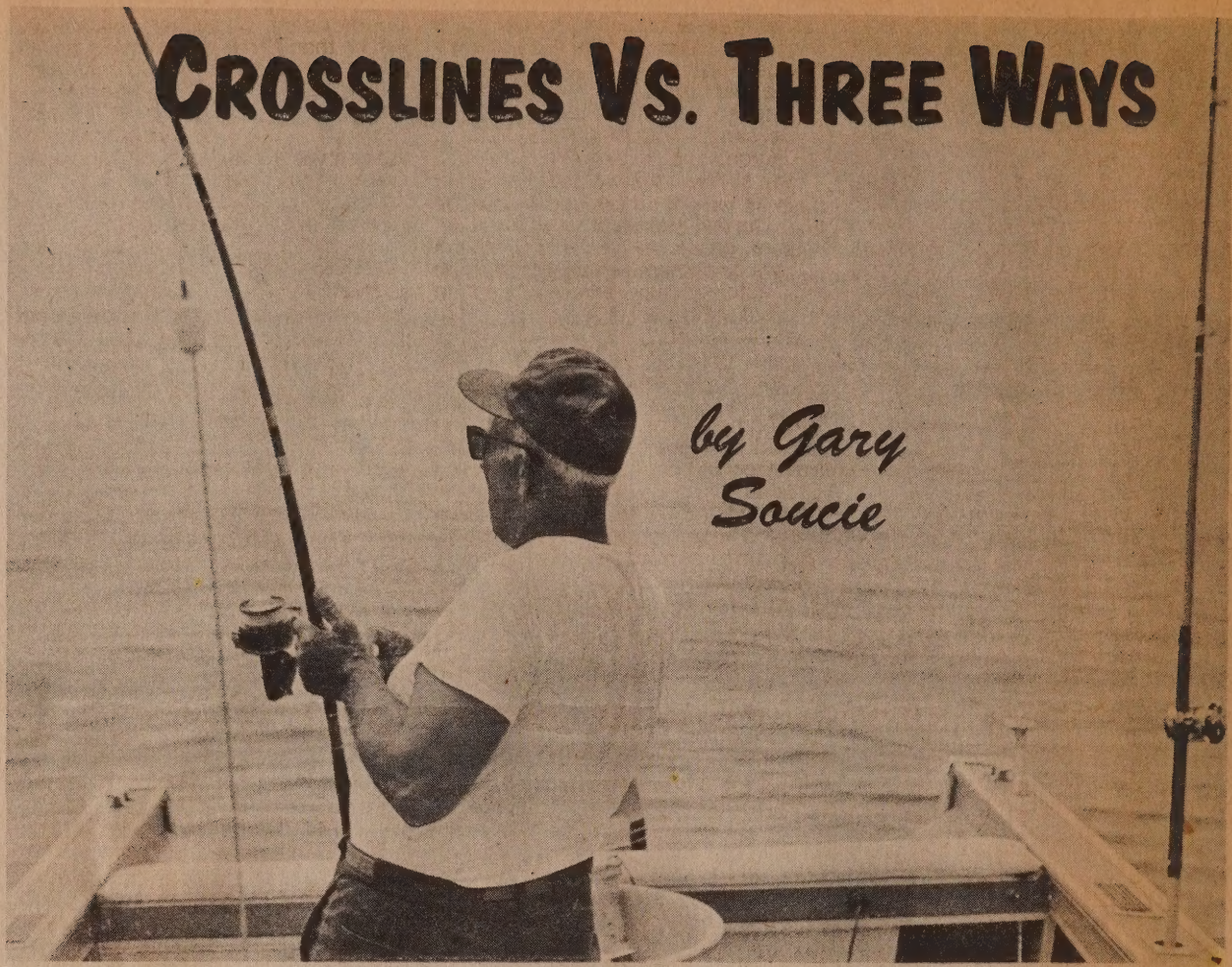
CROSSLINES VS. THREE WAYS

by Gary Soucie



Okay, let's say you have considered the situation carefully and decided you need a swivel. Should it be a three-way or a crossline? The two aren't entirely interchangeable. For most purposes, the crossline is superior to the three-way swivel.

A swivel has to swivel to be worth anything at all. When the stress is applied to a swivel at an angle, the bearing surfaces tend to bind rather than slide. If the bearing surfaces won't slide, the swivel won't swivel.

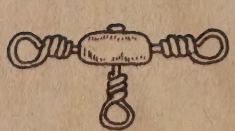
I can think of only one routine angling situation in which the three-way swivel is probably superior, or at least not inferior, to the crossline. On a standard fluke drift rig, in which the sinker is attached to one eye via a sinker clip or short dropper and the baited hook, spinner rig, or jig is attached to a second eye, the three-way's symmetrical geometry is very useful.

By the way, if you are a fan of dull, dark hardware, spraying three-way swivels with black paint will only decrease their already marginal effectiveness at swiveling. I know of a single source for blackened brass three-way swivels: West Falmouth Tackle, Box 69, West Falmouth, Mass. 02574. Write for their free catalog.

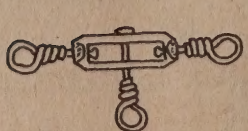
Crossline swivels are another cup of tea. They are made with two eyes directly opposed and the third perpendicular to the axis of the first two. This configuration gives it a fighting chance of swiveling under pressure.

Although crossline swivels are harder to find in the tackle shops than

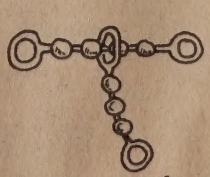
CROSSLINE SWIVELS



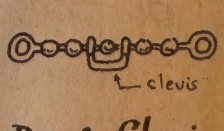
Barrel



Box



Bead Chain



Bead Chain
610

three-ways, there are many more different types of crossline swivels. Barrel and box crossline swivels are essentially similar, but for the box swivel's open construction. In weedy water or around brush, the box swivel's open center can lead to fouling. On the other hand, its openness makes it easier to rinse with fresh water. ALL swivels, even expensive Sampos, should be rinsed after use in saltwater. All metals used in swivel construction will corrode in sea water, and corrosion severely diminishes a swivel's ability to swivel. You can also give them an occasional shot of reel oil or WD-40 to make swiveling easier.

Bead Chain calls its crossline swivels three-ways. Being flexible, bead-chain swivels bend and convert off-center stresses from sharp angles to arcs. With so many different bearing surfaces, the bead-chain swivels are more likely than rigid swivels to function under angular stress.

Besides their normal crossline swivel, Bead Chain also makes a swivel they call the #610 trolling swivel, which actually is a branch swivel. It is simply a bead-chain swivel with a clevis straddling the center ball. The clevis isn't swiveled on its own axis, so the 610 is a branch, rather than a crossline swivel. (It's used for deep trolling rigs with droppers spaced widely apart. As the rig is retrieved, each dropper is unsnapped at the clevis and the swivel can be wound right through the rod guides and onto the reel spool.)

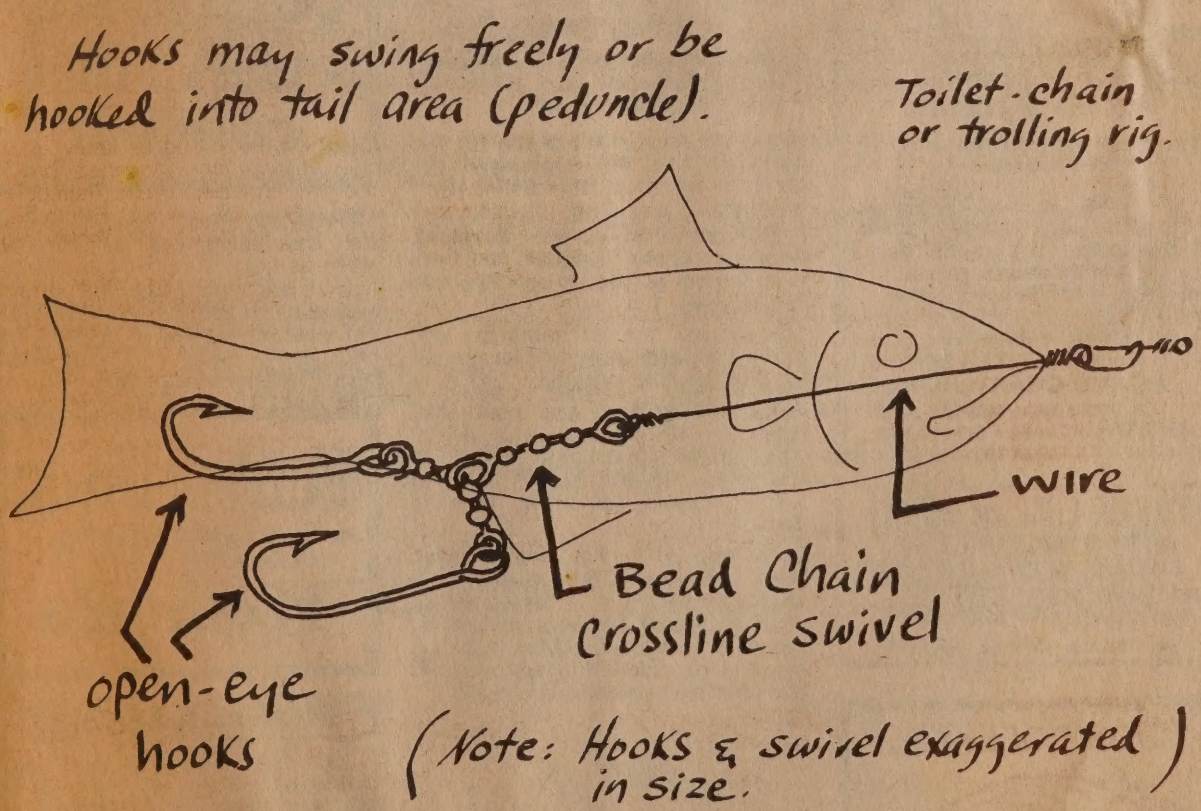
Any sinker used in trolling should have its weight suspended **below** the line. Curved sinkers and drails, keel sinkers, gooseneck drails, and diving sinkers or planers are designed to do this automatically when rigged in line; but almost any sinker suspended from a crossline swivel makes a darned good trolling weight. Far superior to the torpedo-shaped sinkers (miscalled drails) you often see used around here. The sinker so employed should be more round than flat, and the good old bank sinker is about as good as any. If you are having trouble with twisted monofilament, unlaid braided line, or kinked wire—try dropping a bank sinker from a crossline swivel.

Drift rigs can employ the three-way swivel. Not only fluke rigs, but also the jig and bunker rigs used at the bottom of the Race. Again, you will find it superior to the standard toilet-chain rig with a torpedo "drail" in front of the bait.

Numerous bottom, drift, and trolling rigs employ baited hooks or lures on droppers. Crossline swivels are better than three-way swivels on all these; or, of course, Abe 'n' Al rigs.

Incidentally, Bead Chain's crossline swivels, which come in thirty and sixty pound test strengths, lend themselves to all sort of ingenious tackle gadgetry when rigged "backwards," in mini-spreader fashion. Down in the Carolinas I have seen them used, with open-eye hooks, used effectively in big bait fish rigs on short-striking blues and king mackerel. And I suppose they could be jury-rigged into service on spinner-bait-type rigs, with a jig attached to one snap, a spinner blade attached to the opposite eye with a split ring and maybe a tiny snap swivel if needed.

A last word on using either three-ways or crosslines: don't use sizes that are larger than necessary. I have watched anglers tie complicated, multi-swiveled rigs in which the plain swivels were sizes five or seven and the three-ways as large as 2/0. If the three-way or crossline swivel is tied into your rig below another swivel, it needn't be any larger or stronger than the top swivel. The top-most swivel on any rig is going to have to support all the stress anyway, and don't think the three-way or crossline has to be stronger just because you are tying two lines onto it.


Hooks may swing freely or be hooked into tail area (peduncle).
Toilet-chain or trolling rig.
wire
Bead Chain Crossline swivel
open-eye hooks
(Note: Hooks & swivel exaggerated in size.)

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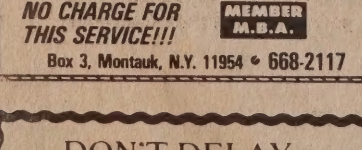
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Captain's Table:
CLAM SAUCE NAPOLITAN

(Continued from page 13.)

1 lge. can imported Italian tomatoes with paste
3 tsps. imported olive oil

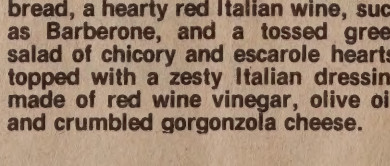
Heat olive oil in open saucepan; add garlic, parsley, and basil. Saute for about 5 minutes or until garlic starts to brown.

Add contents of canned tomatoes, crushing whole tomatoes between your fingers as you do so, then add salt to taste.

Let simmer for 30 minutes; add drained minced clams, and let simmer for additional 30 minutes.

Remove from heat and pour over bowls of linguini, cooked al dente, which means "not too soft," or literally, "to the teeth," which further means somewhat firm to chew.

Serve with piping hot, crusty Italian bread, a hearty red Italian wine, such as Barberone, and a tossed green salad of chicory and escarole hearts, topped with a zesty Italian dressing made of red wine vinegar, olive oil, and crumbled gorgonzola cheese.



MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
CODFISH

The Viking Fleet reported that at best, cod fishing can only be described as fair. The boats are fishing Block Island and managing to pick away at a few fish. Some consistently cold weather is needed to drop the water temp which is well above normal for this time of year.

SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

MORICHES BAY

John from **East Moriches Bait & tackle** called to tell us that on Saturday, Tony Rizzo aboard the "Nino" with Charlie Sagarro from the Bronx caught 72 flounder up to 1¾ lbs. on bloodworms fishing in the East Cut. On Sunday, Lee Schroeder and Frank Hoffman aboard "That's My Hon" caught four codfish up to 34 lbs., 12 whiting and ling in four hours

A MESSAGE AND REQUEST FROM THE CAPTREE BOATMAN'S ASSOC.

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We feel the new proposal to award berths to the highest bidder and not requiring new berth holders to know our waters is not in the best interest of the public or the Captree Boatman's Association. Captains with many years of experience might be forced out of business, depriving you and your family of the good fishing, friendly service and clean boats that you now expect and get at Captree.

WE ASK YOUR SUPPORT

If you and your fellow fishermen have enjoyed fishing with us, please express your feelings and enlist the support of your friends in signing the following OPEN LETTER. Just clip out the coupon below and send it to us—we will let them hear your testimony. The future of our fleet and Captree is in your hands.

If You would like to do more, writer to Govenor Carey and contact your state Senator or assemblyman—but please send us the coupon too!

THANK YOU. YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED

The Captree Boatmen's Association

RETURN TO: Captain Gordon Roman, Secretary
Captree Boatman's Association
33 Overton Place, Babylon, N.Y. 11702

AN OPEN LETTER TO The Long Island State Park and Recreation Commission

We the undersigned support the members of the Captree Boatman's Association, and request you reconsider your decision to auction berths at Captree Boat Basin to the highest bidder, without regard to prior experience. We urge you to be fair to those captains who have provided a high standard of service at a reasonable price and helped establish Captree as a safe family port.

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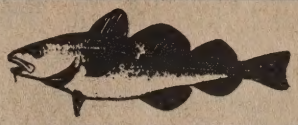

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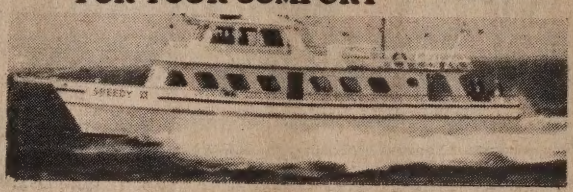

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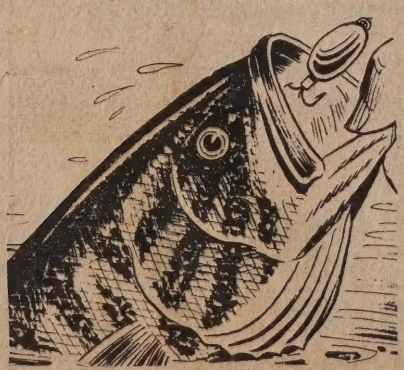

★★★ BAY SHORE ★★★

CASEY LEE
WILL RESUME SAILING MARCH 1979

Capt. Neil Delaney (516) 698-5918
Capt. Walter Specht (516) 546-5568

using skimmers, in 70 ft. of water SW of Moriches Inlet.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
CODFISH

CAPTREE

The **Captree Queen** reports that Saturday, which was the boat's final flounder trip of the '78 season was only fair, with high hook being eight keeper flounder. However, as this was the only Captree boat fishing for flounder, probably the largest flounder out swimming around that day was taken by one fare, the fish going 2 lbs. 8 oz. The happy angler was Ed Edinger of Brooklyn.

Capt. Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** lamented over the poor cod fishing of this past weekend. The skipper said that Saturday was the toughest day of the year and looks for a drop in water temp. to give the fishing a kick. Some whiting were taken towards the end of last week.

The Captain Scotty reported cod "few and far between". The only consolation is that the fish taken are all decent size.

BAY SHORE

Flounder fishing was slow Friday and Saturday, reports Capt. Neil of the **Casey Lee.** The water had suddenly turned very cold and the fish were not biting right. The boat has stopped fishing now for the season and Neil says he hopes to be seeing you in the spring when a very good start on flounder is expected, due to the large number of small fish that were around this year.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** tells us that on Friday, one skiff had 18 good flounder fishing between the dock and the closest channel markers right off the Station on clam. John Demeno's Mar John bagged a 38 lb. cod and a 25 lb. cod fishing clam on open bottom at the Fingers on the weekend. (Hear that, Doc Grell?)

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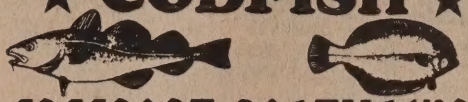

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★BEST BET★ CODFISH

FREEPORT

"Big, big cod," is what Capt. Al Lindroth of the **Capt. Al** happily talked about to us on Monday morning. We were impressed as well. Thursday saw Joe Golden of Massapequa Park deck a 53 lb. cod. Lynbrook Tackle dealer Bill Beckman hung a 50 lber. Bronx angler Peter Vlamis had a 40 lb. cod. Friday saw Simon Carter of Laurelton hook and land a 40 lb. cod. A 12 and a 15 lb. blue were also taken. Big fish continued on Saturday, as Ben Camusci of Astoria brought up a 45 lb. lunker and a 14 lb. companion cod, a double-header. This was the first double-header of the year on the boat. This was all on wrecks. On Saturday, on the way back Al made a drop on Cholera and had 2, 12 lb. cod on open bottom with a good sprinkling of mackerel. Sunday's weather conditions put the boat back to Cholera once more where 20 teen-size cod ranging up to 30 lbs. were caught, along with some ling and quite a few LARGE blackfish. A 12 lb. bluefish was also caught. It looks as though open bottom is beginning to produce cod now.

Captain Sy Karlin of the **Blue Fin II** called to tell us that after a slow Saturday morning of codfishing, he fished an offshore wreck for excellent catches of blackfish with over 200 blacks being taken in just a few hours. The pool was taken by John Leary of the 1400 Rod and Gun Club of Staten Island, with a 7 lb. black.

Captain Spider Schmidt of the **Aloma II** tells us that the winter mackerel run has shown its face at last and that he is now catching mackerel mixed in with his catches of whiting and ling, fishing just 20 minutes out of the Inlet. The ling are up to 3 lbs. and the whiting up to 2 lbs., with the macks going up to 2 lbs. also. The ling and whiting are on jigs, while the macks are on drifted bait, while jigging at mid-depths. Good mackerel fishing is expected now for the next two weeks. This is all in about 40 ft. of water.

The Capt. Lou II reports that flounder fishing in the local creeks and channels remained good all week. Captain Mike says Friday was excellent with over 400 keeper flounder for 15 people. Mike Fayrer of Great Neck was high hook with 45 fish. All fish being caught are from ½ to 1½ lbs. Saturday, Neil Isenberg of Little Neck put away 41 keepers. Ten-year-old Khaleonge Tham of Kenmnare had 25

Fish Talk: BLACK SEA BASS

(Continued from page 12.)

to outwit bass and blues. White water, where the predator has only a quick glimpse of a moving bait, the cover of darkness, monofilament lines, and natural baits are all tangible efforts in that direction. In general, fast moving predators are easier to fool since they are frequently lunging at baits; while bottom dwellers such as sea bass and blackfish—although often quite aggressive—will generally be able to take a good look at a baited offering before committing to it. A large concentration of sea bass on a reef or other bottom structure usually means that the fish are hungry and must commit to a bait quickly before it it taken by another fish.

THE 1978 FIVE-MONTH CATCH STATISTICS. For the five month period ending May, 1978, only 25,976 pounds of sea bass were taken and shipped to market. This represents a decline from the preceding several years. This decline was mirrored by the sport fishing catch also. Few fishermen fished expressly for sea bass in our waters in 1978 and most of the fish taken were caught incidental to catches of porgy and blackfish. In the same five month period during 1977, 52,799 pounds were taken commercially. The Long Island Fisherman is again attempting to secure by-catch statistics which were promised to us by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Council. It is our suspicion that large numbers of sea bass, fluke, porgy, and perhaps even weakfish are part of the incidental catch taken by foreign nationals. This data is important to all sport fishermen and we will continue to push to get it.

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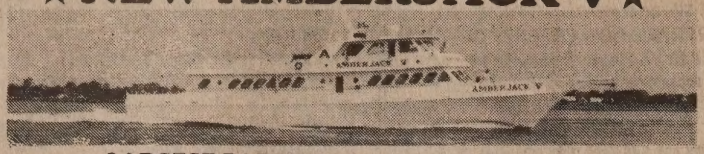

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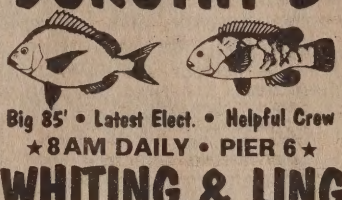
DOROTHY B



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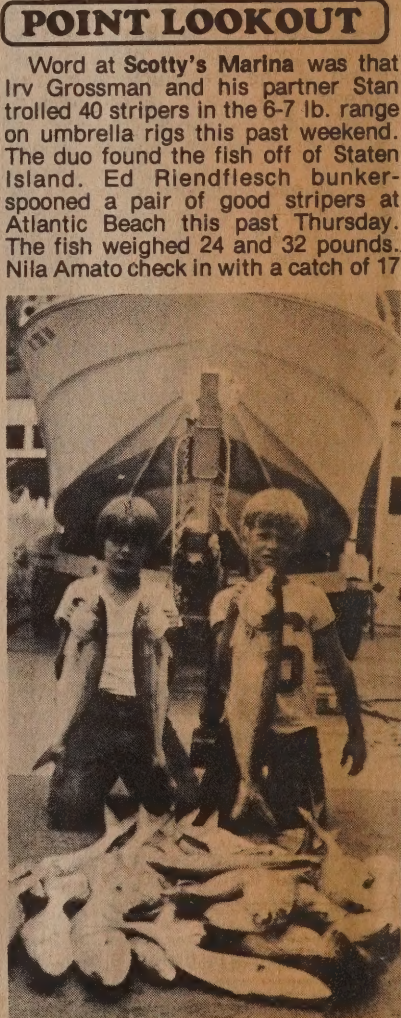
flounder. The boat will be fishing these next three weekends, plus Fridays and will then probably call it quits until next spring.

Capt. Richie of the **Starstream II** reported the boat is averaging 4-10 cod a day up to 36 pounds. A few macks and ling are mixed in with the cod but like everywhere else this weekend, it was "Tough Picking"!

Cod on Sunday, says Capt. Tony of the **Miss Freeport**. Eleven men led by Uwe Schneedus had four cod up to 25 lbs. fishing clam on open bottom in 90 ft. of water S/E of Jones Inlet. There was also a sprinkling of whiting. On Saturday, the boat fished local areas for flounder, high hook being 18 keeper flatties taken on worms and yellow dyed clam, fishing the deeper holes. Please note that the boat is fishing Saturdays and Sundays only until further notice.

POINT LOOKOUT

Word at **Scotty's Marina** was that Irv Grossman and his partner Stan trolled 40 stripers in the 6-7 lb. range on umbrella rigs this past weekend. The duo found the fish off of Staten Island. Ed Riendflesch bunker-spooned a pair of good stripers at Atlantic Beach this past Thursday. The fish weighed 24 and 32 pounds. Nila Amato check in with a catch of 17



Mike and Chris Hoefenkrieg with 36 blues trolled off of Lido Beach on umbrella rigs. Subscriber Club photo.

flounder made on worm bait in Reynold's Channel on Saturday. A few whiting being taken offshore when boats can get out.

ISLAND PARK

Capt. Clem of the **Commodore** reported that with the cod fishing being what it is, he will continue to fish flounders for another couple of weeks rather than switch over. Judging by Saturday scores, his reasoning is well founded. Fishing in Reynolds Channel off of the hospital, some fares did exceptionally well. Frank Herskowitz landed 48 flatties, Sid Lee had 33 including a 1½ pound pool fish and Walter Filipet bagged 30 nice size fish.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait & Tackle spoke of a few flounders on worms and clams at the bridges but not much else happening.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Capt. Tony of the **Big Mohawk** reported good catches of ling and whiting at the BA Buoy over the weekend. The Capt. asked us to remind people that as of December 16 at 6:00 a.m. he will be sailing open for cod.

The **Atomic II** reported buckets of whiting and ling down at Scotland St. on Saturday and Sunday. The Captain described the fishing as "the best of the year". Even novice anglers caught fish by the bucket this weekend.

NORTH SHORE
MID-ISLAND
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

HUNTINGTON

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NATIONAL SCENE

(Continued from page 6.)

back to the program. The personnel and costs of that program are charged to NMFS. The staffing is particularly critical, as there is a freeze on personnel levels in government agencies at present, and observers take away from other personnel requirements in an agency already overburdened by new responsibilities created by the 200-Mile Limit. It's the sort of problem that could be settled in minutes by a private concern, but will probably drag on for years in the Federal Government. Just about everyone wants 100% coverage (even some of the foreign fleets), and the Councils have requested this. Overall costs could be cut even further if observers were given enforcement powers and the need for extensive Coast Guard patrolling lessened.

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1978 EVINRUDES
2-$228; 4-$319; 6-$460; 9.9-$590; 15-$680; 25-$785; 35-$878; 55-$1325; 70-$1517; 85-$1736; 115-$1839; 140-$1940; 150-$2560; 175-$2648; 200-$2774; 235-$2899. ELECTRA MARINE, 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, NY. Scott & McCulloch Parts. FOB. Call: 516-599-3003.

GRADY WHITE NEW 1978 HATTERAS OVERNIGHTER. 20' 4" with cuddy and recessed walkaround deck. New 1978 Johnson 175 h.p. trim-tilt. Self-bailing; head and tackle locker; 65 gal. tank. Compass; full canvas; 4 marinium rod holders. Instrumentation. Cockpit lights; horn; anti-fouling bottom; automatic bilge; Morse controls, S/S stern rail and cushions. $10,775. EDDIE'S MARINE SERVICE, 212-327-3168.

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1973 MAKO 19' 115 h.p. Evinrude w/5 h.p. Kicker. Shoreline Galvanized trailer—new wheels, hubs, bearings, etc. Mooring and console covers; depth finder and more. Very well taken care of and very dependable package. $4300. 516-423-0881. After 6PM.

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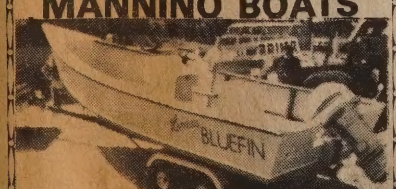

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HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	1:20	1:43	2:09	2:31	2:03	2:21	3:01	3:23	5:17	5:49	4:44	5:13	1:13	1:40	12/7
FRI.	2:20	2:45	3:15	3:35	3:03	3:22	4:06	4:31	6:30	7:03	5:49	6:18	2:15	2:41	12/8
SAT.	3:22	3:48	4:19	4:37	4:02	4:25	5:05	5:35	7:31	8:03	6:50	7:21	3:14	3:38	12/9
SUN.	4:22	4:45	5:14	5:35	5:00	5:23	5:59	6:30	8:26	8:59	7:46	8:18	4:10	4:32	12/10
MON.	5:15	5:36	6:07	6:24	5:53	6:14	6:49	7:19	9:17	9:49	8:38	9:10	5:00	5:22	12/11
TUE.	6:01	6:22	6:53	7:13	6:40	7:02	7:33	8:05	10:04	10:36	9:27	9:56	5:46	6:09	12/12
WED.	6:42	7:04	7:37	7:56	7:23	7:46	8:16	8:46	10:45	11:16	10:10	10:40	6:32	6:52	12/13
THUR.	7:22	7:45	8:16	8:38	8:04	8:29	8:54	9:26	11:22	11:54	10:52	11:19	7:15	7:35	12/14

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	+ 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

12/2	7:09	4:29
12/7	7:14	4:29
12/12	7:19	4:29
12/17	7:22	4:30
12/22	7:24	4:32
12/27	7:27	4:35

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
12/29	12/7	12/14	12/22

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	10:55	5:15	11:25	5:35
Fri.	11:50	5:55	—	6:20
Sat.	12:05	6:40	12:35	7:05
Sun.	12:50	7:25	1:20	7:50
Mon.	1:35	8:10	2:05	8:35
Tues.	2:20	8:55	2:50	9:20
Wed.	3:05	9:40	3:35	10:05
Thurs.	3:50	10:25	4:20	10:50